

Docket No.: 50212-573

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277

Toshiaki OKUNO : Confirmation Number:

Serial No.: Divisional of Appl. No.  
09/726,601 : Group Art Unit:

Filed: March 01, 2004 : Examiner:

For: DISPERSION-COMPENSATING MODULE, LINE SWITCHING APPARATUS AND  
OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Information Disclosure  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The references were cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application Serial No. 09/726,601, filed December 1, 2000, which is relied upon for an

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earlier filing date under 35 USC 120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR 1.98(d).

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Steiner', is written over the printed name.

Arthur J. Steiner  
Registration No. 26,106

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
(202) 756-8000 AJS:prg  
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087  
**Date: March 1, 2004**

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b>  <b>(PTO-1449)</b>				ATTY. DOCKET NO. <b>50212-573</b>		SERIAL NO. <b>Divisional of Appl. No. 09/726,601</b>	
				APPLICANT <b>Toshiaki OKUNO</b>			
				FILING DATE <b>March 01, 2004</b>		GROUP	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sub>2</sub> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
		US 6,081,360	06/27/2000	Ishikawa et al.			
		US 5,940,208	08/17/1999	Blaszyk et al.			
		US 6,055,082	04/2000	Chikuma			
		US 6,351,323	02/2002	Onaka et al.			
		US 6,320,687	11/2001	Ishikawa			
		US 5,999,293	12/1999	Manning			
		US					
		US					
		US					
		US					
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes - Number - Kind Codes (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation	
						Yes	No
		JP 11-251973	09/17/1999	Nippon Telegr & Teleph Corp. & NTT			
		EP 0 902 558 A2	03/17/1999	Fujitsu Limited			
		JP 11-88260	03/30/1999				
		JP 11-88261	03/30/1999				
		JP 11-68657	03/09/1999				
		JP 10-41891	02/13/1998				
		EP 0 812 075 A2	12/10/1997	Northern Telecom Limited			
		JP 10-84317	03/31/1998				
		JP 8-274713	10/18/1996	Fujitsu Limited			
<b>OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.